

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05

TRSE-00 /067 W

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O 021310Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9650

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8833

FOLLOWING REPEAT MADRAS 866 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO
BOMBAY/CALCUTTA DTD 2 JUL 75

QUOTE:

MADRAS 0886

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: DMK STANCE ON EMERGENCY

REF: STATE 155850; MADRAS 877 (NOTAL)

1. WE BELIEVE VIEWS OF CHITTY BABU REPORTED MADRAS 0872 DO NOT REPRESENT VIEWS OF UPPER ECHELONS OF THE DMK. FOLLOWING THE IMPOSITION OF THE EMERGENCY, TWO GROUPS EMERGED IN THE PARTY, ONE FAVORING A GENERALLY SOFT LINE WHICH WOULD MINIMIZE RISK OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOI AND THE OTHER FAVORING A MORE AGGRESSIVE STANCE INVOLVING SOME RISK OF CONFRONTATION. CHIEF MINISTER KARUNANIDHI WAS CLEARLY WITH THE LATTER GROUP AND CARRIED THE DMK EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WITH HIM WITH NO SERIOUS OPPOSITION. KARUNANIDHI APPEARS TO BE CONVINCED THAT A SHOW OF INDEPENDENCE CAN ONLY ENHANCE THE DMK FORTUNES IN TAMIL NADU, PARTICULARLY AS HIS RIVAL M.G. RAMACHANDRAN, SUPPORTED
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BY THE CPI, HAS FALLEN IN LINE COMPLETELY BEHIND THE PRIME

MINISTER'S ACTIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, KARUNANIDHI IS NOT ACTIVELY SEEKING A SHOWDOWN WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT THIS TIME. HE HAS TAKEN CARE THAT IT WAS THE DMK PARTY AND NOT THE DMK GOVERNMENT WHICH ADOPTED THE RESOLUTION CRITICAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S IMPOSITION OF THE EMERGENCY AND ARREST OF OPPOSITION LEADERS. IN ADDITION, THE ONLY TWO DMK MINISTERS TO HAVE SPOKEN PUBLICLY THUS FAR, APART FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ARE EDUCATION MINISTER NEDUNCHEZHIAN (MADRAS 0884) AND HEALTH MINISTER ANBAZHAGAN (MADRAS 0872) BOTH OF WHOM LIMITED THEMSELVES TO LOW-KEY REPETITIONS OF THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE DMK RESOLUTIONS. THESE MINISTERS HAVE ALSO MADE A POINT OF EXPRESSING GENERAL SUPPORT FOR MRS. GANDHI'S ECONOMIC POLICIES. CHIEF MINISTER KARUNANIDHI HAS TODAY ALSO WELCOMED THE ECONOMIC MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY MRS. GANDHI YESTERDAY, ADDITIONALLY EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT MEASURES TO BE ANNOUNCED IN FUTURE WOULD INCLUDE "PROGRESSIVE" STEPS INCLUDING THE NATIONALIZATION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIES.

2. WE BELIEVE KARUNANIDHI WILL WAIT TO GAUGE GOI REACTION TO THE GENERAL DMK STANCE SO FAR BEFORE DECIDING WHAT TO DO NEXT. AS WE REPORTED THIS MORNING (MADRAS 0884), THE DMK ORGAN MURASOLI IS MUCH TAMER TODAY. HOWEVER, IF KARUNANIDHI THINKS THE DMK'S FORTUNES REQUIRE IT, HE WILL PROBABLY PUSH HIS CRITICISMS A BIT FURTHER, ESPECIALLY IF HE THINKS HE CAN DO SO WITHOUT RISKING RETALIATION.

3. THE ABOVE REPRESENTS OUR ASSESSMENT WITHOUT HAVING TALKED IN THE LAST FEW DAYS DIRECTLY WITH MEMBERS OF THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE DMK. WE WILL BE SEEING SOME OF THEM LATER TODAY AND TOMORROW AND WILL REPORT FURTHER.
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